

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the Title of the Invention as follows:

Value document with printed areas partly covered with ~~film~~ foil

Please replace paragraph 0002 with the following replacement paragraph:

[0002] This invention relates to a data carrier having at least one printed area produced by intaglio printing and partly covered with a foil ~~film~~, and to a method for producing said data carrier.

Please replace paragraph 0011 with the following replacement paragraph:

[0011] To increase falsification security, in particular of identification documents such as passports, one page of the passport bearing the personal data to be specially protected, such as name, date of birth, photo, signature, etc., is therefore usually provided with a transparent ~~film~~ foil structure printed partly on the inner side, so that said data are not directly accessible. The production of such a passport is described for example in EP 0 364 730 A2.

Please replace paragraph 0012 with the following replacement paragraph:

[0012] In such ~~film-foil~~-coated documents the data are no longer accessible to direct access from outside, but they are also no longer tactilely perceptible if executed by intaglio printing.

Please replace paragraph 0015 with the following replacement paragraph:

[0015] The invention is based on at least one printed area provided on the data carrier and produced by intaglio printing being covered partly with a foil-~~film~~.

Please replace paragraph 0016 with the following replacement paragraph:

[0016] A part of the printed area is thus accessible to a tactile check, while the remaining printed area is covered by a foil-film. The foil-film can be applied to the data carrier such that not only a part of the printed area but also sensitive further data, such as the above-mentioned personal data, are covered in identification documents. The data page to be protected is preferably, in particular in identification documents such as passports, provided with a foil-film all over except for the inventive partial cover.

Please replace paragraph 0017 with the following replacement paragraph:

[0017] The partial cover of the printed image by foil-film is preferably realized by the foil-film having at least one gap under which the printed area is disposed according to the invention. The gap is to be selected such that printed area and foil-film overlap. In particular it is preferable if the gap and the printed area are disposed so as to be as centered as possible relative to each other and the gap is smaller than the area of the printed image. The area of the gap is preferably to be selected such that an easy check of tactility is possible but, on the other hand, the foil-film can still perform its protective function. In particular, the area of the gap is approx. 1 to 4 cm².

Please replace paragraph 0019 with the following replacement paragraph:

[0019] In a preferred embodiment, the tactility and thus the surface relief is not equally pronounced over the total printed area. Particularly preferably, the tactility and thus the surface relief is greater at least in certain areas in the area not covered with foil-film than in the area covered with foil-film. The increased tactility can be obtained by more inking and stronger embossing of the printed or embossed substrate. This is normally obtained by deeper engravings in the printing plate used. In the printed area covered with foil-film the tactility is preferably weakly to hardly pronounced, i.e. the embossing of the substrate and the inking are low here. This has the advantage that the foil-film can

be applied to a substrate with slight unevenness, which optimizes the cohesion of substrate and ~~foil-film~~. Splitting of the ~~film~~ ~~foil~~-substrate laminate is thus reduced, while the tactile properties of the non-covered printed area are simultaneously retained or even increased.

Please replace paragraph 0020 with the following replacement paragraph:

[0020] In particular with very thin ~~foils-films~~ with thicknesses of e.g. under 15 μm , which are more inclined to chip or break open in the laminate, it is expedient to use a flat intaglio print in the area of overlapping of ~~foil-film~~ with the printed area.

Please replace paragraph 0027 with the following replacement paragraph:

[0027] Normally the ~~foil-film~~ is accordingly cut, preferably a gap punched out. In the case of gaps the falsification security can be increased further if complicated punching patterns are used, e.g. wavy or jagged edges, star-shaped gaps, etc. To permit an easy check of the tactility of the exposed printed area, circular or almost square forms are preferable to prolonged, narrow gaps.

Please replace paragraph 0028 with the following replacement paragraph:

[0028] The ~~foil-film~~ normally has a thickness of approx. 6 to 150 μm . It is preferable to use very thin ~~foils-films~~ that cannot readily, i.e. without being destroyed, be removed from the data carrier. In particular, ~~foils-films~~ are used that have a thickness of less than 15 μm , particularly preferably from approx. 6 to 8 μm . In embodiments in which thicker ~~foils-films~~ are desired, ~~foils-films~~ with a thickness of approx. 100 to 130 μm are preferably used.

Please replace paragraph 0029 with the following replacement paragraph:

[0029] The ~~foils-films~~ can themselves be equipped with further security elements. Preferably the ~~foil-film~~ has diffraction structures, such as holographic embossed structures.

Please replace paragraph 0030 with the following replacement paragraph:

[0030] The ~~foil-film~~ materials used can be e.g. polyethylene terephthalate (PET) or selected thermoplastics. The ~~foils-films~~ should be at least translucent, preferably transparent, and can optionally also be colored.

Please replace paragraph 0031 with the following replacement paragraph:

[0031] The ~~foil-film~~ is applied to the substrate printed by intaglio printing e.g. by means of hot lamination or gluing. The positioning of the ~~foil-film~~, in particular of ~~foils-films~~ with gaps, over the substrate is preferably done by means of position marks on ~~foil-film~~ and substrate.

Please replace paragraph 0032 with the following replacement paragraph:

[0032] Suitable substrates or data carrier materials are all substrate materials that can be used for intaglio printing, such as paper, plastic, plastic ~~foil-film~~ laminated or coated paper, as well as multilayer composite materials. It is preferable to use paper, in particular based on cotton fibers.

Please replace paragraph 0033 with the following replacement paragraph:

[0033] The inventively printed data carriers have increased falsification security since they are not reproducible with common printing processes due to the characteristic intaglio printed image and offer a characteristic printed or embossed image easily recognizable even to laymen. The tactilely perceptible image elements additionally offer effective protection against imitation by color photocopying or scanning of the data carriers. Additionally the data on the value document are reliably protected from attempts at tampering by the laminated ~~foil-film~~. The present invention therefore combines in a unique way the advantages of tactile intaglio printed elements with foils ~~films~~ as a protective cover. The foils-films prevent not only unauthorized access, but

also improve the fitness for circulation and dirt resistance of the thus protected data carrier.

Please replace paragraph 0034 with the following replacement paragraph:

[0034] If the foil-film is brought over the printed area according to the invention, in particular such that the printed motif continues essentially seamlessly under the foil-film, the protection from forgery is particularly great because the areas not covered with the foil-film cannot readily be cut out and transferred to other documents. "Seamlessly" does not necessary mean "without interruption" according to the invention. Along with unbroken lines and patterns, it is of course also possible to use printed images that convey to the viewer the impression of a continuous course, e.g. dashed lines or dotted areas whose individual elements are difficult to resolve optically with the naked eye. The motif transition between areas not covered with foil-film and areas covered with foil-film cannot be reproduced by simple cutting and gluing, in particular with finely structured patterns, i.e. it is impossible to glue areas in exact register to documents to be forged. Possible attempts at forgery are already easily recognizable with the naked eye or with simple aids such as a magnifying glass.

Please replace paragraph 0041 with the following replacement paragraph:

[0041] Fig. 1 shows a passport 1 comprising a plastic or linen cover with a front cover sheet 2a and a back cover sheet 2b, an inventive personalization page 3, a second data sheet 4, a third data sheet 5 and an empty sheet 6. The sheets 4, 5 and 6 as well as any further empty sheets (not shown) preferably consist of paper or another material with a surface condition that permits later entries (extensions, visas, etc.). The sheet 4 bears for example details on children of the passport holder. At the bottom edge of the data sheet 4 there is a punched-in passport number. The personalization page 3 constitutes the inventive data sheet and consists of two transparent cover foils-films enclosing therebetween a paper inlay provided with different elements. The data sheet 3 has in the present case a smooth surface area 30 in which machine-readable data lines are disposed. Furthermore, the data sheet 3 bears the name 31, date of birth 32,

place of birth 33 and signature 34 of the holder of said passport 1. The holder-related data, like the machine-readable data, are entered in the as yet unlaminated data sheet 3 e.g. by an ink jet printer. Then the lamination of the cover ~~foil-film~~ is done. Besides all these data, the identification document can of course be provided with further information and security elements depending on the intended use. Thus, the passport can have for example a photo of the passport holder likewise incorporated by ink jet printing.

Please replace paragraph 0042 with the following replacement paragraph:

[0042] Fig. 2 shows the personalized data page 3 from Fig. 1 in a top view with holder-related data such as name 31, date of birth 32, place of birth 33, signature 34, the photo 35 of the holder and the inventive areas 7 and 8. The finely structured guilloche background pattern 9 in the area 7, 8 and the writing "PASSPORT" as well as the sequence of letters "DE" e.g. for the country of issue are printed by intaglio printing. The area 8 moreover has a blind-embossed area 10. The data page was laminated with a ~~foil-film~~ which has an oval gap and a rectangular gap over the areas 7 and 8.

Please replace paragraph 0043 with the following replacement paragraph:

[0043] Looking more closely at the area 7, one can see that the finely structured background pattern 9 extends seamlessly from the area not covered with ~~foil-film~~ to the area covered with the ~~foil-film~~. The writing "PASSPORT" can be easily detected tactilely. When scanning the area from left to right with his finger the checking person can at first not detect any roughness tactilely in the area of the ~~foil-film~~. When moving his finger further to the right he can already clearly perceive, despite the constant pattern, a tactile effect which increases toward the middle of the gap in the area "PASSPORT" and then decreases again toward the right to the reverse extent.

Please replace paragraph 0044 with the following replacement paragraph:

[0044] Fig. 3 shows the area 7 depicted in Fig. 2, in cross section along the line A - A. The substrate 17, preferably cotton paper, is coated with ~~foil-film~~ 11 on the front and

back, the ~~foil-film~~ having an inventive - here oval - gap 12 on the front. Furthermore, the substrate is printed with intaglio printing that is tactilely perceptible to different extents. The guilloche pattern 9 shows weak embossing 13 and little inking 15, while the writing "PASSPORT" shows strong embossing 14 and thicker inking 16.

Please replace paragraph 0045 with the following replacement paragraph:

[0045] Fig. 4 shows the area 8 depicted in Fig. 2, in cross section along the line B - B. The substrate 17, preferably consisting of a cotton/cellulose mixture, is again coated with ~~foil-film~~ 11 on the front and back, the ~~foil-film~~ having an inventive - here rectangular - gap 12 on the front. Furthermore, the substrate is equipped with intaglio printing that is tactilely perceptible to different extents and a blind embossing 10. The finely structured guilloche pattern 9 shows weak embossing 13 and little inking 15, while the writing "DE" shows strong embossing 14 and thicker inking 16. In comparison with the area 7, the area 8 has a blind-embossed area 10. To produce said blind-embossed area, the engravings of the printing plate are not, or at least partly not, inked, i.e. not filled with printing ink, before the printing operation. The non-inked area of the printing plate acts only as an embossing plate with which the stated blind embossings can be produced on a substrate during the intaglio printing operation. The embossed elements have similar proportions and tactile properties to the printed areas, with the exception of the visual impression produced by the printing ink. In Fig. 4 there are medium-strong blind embossings which can also be perceived tactilely.